

DESCRIPTION

RADIO TRANSMISSION SYSTEM FOR HIGH-SPEED MOVING OBJECT

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Technical Field

The present invention relates to a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object in which data is transmitted between a high-speed moving object, such as a railroad train or a subway train, and a control center managing a condition of the high-speed moving object.

Background Art

In recent years, a wireless local area network (LAN), which performs communication wirelessly using radio waves or light without using wired cables, has been widely used. As such a wireless LAN, there is, for example, a system which has a plurality of base stations in order to realize communication by switching the base stations even if a communicating terminal is moved.

As such a roaming method of wireless LAN, a high-speed roaming method of wireless LAN, by which the latest radio communication statuses of adjacent access points are recognized and when a radio communication status of the connecting access point is impaired, a connection operation is performed for an adjacent access point having the most reliable communication environment so that the roaming can be performed within a short time period, is suggested (Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2002-26931 publication, for example).

In the meantime, it has recently been conceived that, using such wireless LAN, image data taken by a television camera for capturing a condition inside a running car in a high-speed moving object, such as a railroad train or a subway train, is transmitted via

base stations to a control center and the condition inside the running car is displayed by a monitor or the like in the control center.

However, there is a problem in the above-described conventional wireless LAN system that when handover is performed
5 to switch, to another base station, a base station installed at a railroad or subway station with which the car moving at a high speed is communicating, information for controlling the handover is necessary to be exchanged between the base stations, so that it takes a time to control the switching.

10 Further, in a case where image data is transmitted over a wireless LAN, for example, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11b, re-transmission of a packet is repeated when an error occurs, so that real-time transmission cannot be performed. Still further, there is also a situation where a packet
15 cannot be received due to restraints on the repeat numbers of the re-transmission, and such a situation results in loss of video. Furthermore, since a header is long and a protocol is complicated, use efficiency is not satisfactory.

20 **Summary of the Invention**

Thus, the present invention is conceived in view of the above circumstances, and an object of the present invention is to provide a radio transmission system which is for a high-speed moving object and by which high-speed handover at data transmission from the
25 high-speed moving object can be realized and the data transmission can be properly performed.

In order to achieve the above object, a radio transmission system is provided for a high-speed moving object, in which data is transmitted between the high-speed moving object and a control
30 center that manages a condition of the high-speed moving object, the radio transmission system including: a first base station and a second base station installed alternately along a path of movement

of the high-speed moving object, the first base station having a first communication unit operable to transmit data to and receive data from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of a first frequency, to transmit data to and receive data from the control center via a network; and the second base station having a second communication unit operable to transmit data to and receive data from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of a second frequency, to transmit data to and receive data from the control center via the network, wherein the high-speed moving object includes: a first communication unit operable to transmit and receive data over radio waves of the first frequency; and a second communication unit operable to transmit and receive data over radio waves of the second frequency, and the control center includes: a communication unit operable to transmit the data to and receive the data from the first and second base stations via the network; and a selection unit operable to select one data from a plurality of image data, when there are, among the received data, the plurality of image data having the same information.

Further, the first communication unit of the first base station may be operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing over radio waves of the first frequency at predetermined time intervals, and to receive data transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of the first frequency and transmit the data to the control center via the network; and the second communication unit of the second base station may be operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing over radio waves of the second frequency at predetermined time intervals, and to receive data transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of the second frequency and transmit the data to the control center via the network, wherein the high-speed moving object may include at least one image capturing unit operable to capture an image of the inside of a car in the high-speed moving

object, the first communication unit is operable to transmit image data captured by the image capturing unit as the data over radio waves of the first frequency, when the control data is received over radio waves of the first frequency, the second communication unit is
5 operable to transmit image data captured by the image capturing unit over radio waves of the second frequency, when the control data is received over radio waves of the second frequency, and the selection unit of the base station is operable to select one image data from a plurality of image data, when there are, among the data,
10 the plurality of image data that have been captured by the identical image capturing unit at the same time, and the control center may include a display unit operable to display the received image data or the selected image data, for each of the image capturing unit.

Thereby the high-speed moving object is in a status where
15 the high-speed moving object can receive radio waves of the first frequency and the second frequency at any time, and when control data is received from a base station over the radio waves of the first frequency or the radio waves of the second frequency, image data is transmitted over the radio waves of the first frequency or the radio
20 waves of the second frequency, respectively. This means that when the high-speed moving object receives the control data from the base station over both of the radio waves of the first frequency and the radio waves of the second frequency, the high-speed moving object transmits the same image data over both of the radio waves
25 of the first frequency and the radio waves of the second frequency, and the control center selects, from the two image data, image data having better image quality, so that the image data can be transmitted without processing for switching the base stations to communicate with the high-speed moving object.

30 Still further, the high-speed moving object may further include: a position detection unit operable to detect a running position of the high-speed moving object; and a control unit

operable to control a characteristic at a time when the first and second communication units transmit and receive the data, based on the detected running position of the high-speed moving object.

This prevents, for example, radio waves from not reaching thereby causing a communication impairment or radio waves from reaching too far thereby disturbing other base stations, so that communication statuses of the base stations can be maintained most suitably.

Still further, the control center may further include a setting unit operable to transmit, to the high-speed moving object, a characteristic table in which the running position of the high-speed moving object corresponds to the characteristic, and the control unit of the high-speed moving object may be operable to control the characteristic at a time when the first and second communication units transmit the data, based on the detected running position of the high-speed moving object and the characteristic table.

Thereby it is possible to easily adjust the system when the characteristic table for the high-speed moving object or the like is initialized, or when the characteristic table is changed, for example.

Still further, the control center may further include: a position detection unit operable to detect a position of the high-speed moving object; and a control unit operable to perform transmission instruction by instructing the first and second base stations to transmit the control data, based on the detected position of the high-speed moving object, and the first and second communication units of the first and second base stations are operable to transmit the control data according to the transmission instruction from the control center.

Thereby the first and second base stations do not transmit radio waves in a case where the high-speed moving object does not exist in respective corresponding respective areas, which prevents disturbing other wireless communication using the same frequency,

so that it is possible to improve use efficiency of radio waves.

Still further, the high-speed moving object may include: the first directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the first directional antenna being connected to the first communication unit, being located at one end part in a moving direction of the high-speed moving object, and facing outside; and the second directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the second directional antenna being connected to the second communication unit, being located at the other end part in the moving direction of the high-speed moving object, and facing outside, and the first and second base stations may include: a first directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the first directional antenna being located at one end part in a longitudinal direction of a station platform where the base station is equipped and facing the first directional antenna of the high-speed moving object; and a second directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves wave in a particular direction, the second directional antenna being located at the other end part in the longitudinal direction of the station platform where the base station is equipped and facing the second directional antenna of the high-speed moving object, the first communication unit of the first base station and the second communication unit of the second base station are connected to the first directional antenna and the second directional antenna of the base station, and operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing at predetermined time intervals via the first directional antenna of the base station over radio waves of a first frequency and via the second directional antenna of the base station over radio waves of the second frequency, and to receive data transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of the first frequency and radio wave of the second frequency and transmit the data to the

control center via the network.

Thereby each base station communicates with the high-speed moving object via the directional antenna over radio waves of the first frequency f_1 and radio waves of the second frequency f_2 , so that a reachable distance of the radio waves becomes longer in comparison with a reachable distance by a non-directional antenna, thereby reducing the number of antennae to be installed, which makes it possible to perform communication by, for example, installing a base station only at a railroad or subway station.

Still further, the high-speed moving object may further include: the first directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the first directional antenna being connected to the first communication unit, being located at one end part in a moving direction of the high-speed moving object, and facing outside; and the second directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the second directional antenna being connected to the second communication unit, being located at the other end part in the moving direction of the high-speed moving object, and facing outside, the first and second base stations may further include: a first directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the first directional antenna being located at one end part in a longitudinal direction of a station platform where the base station is equipped and facing the first directional antenna of the high-speed moving object; a second directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the second directional antenna being located at the other end part in the longitudinal direction of the station platform where the base station is equipped and facing the second directional antenna of the high-speed moving object; a third

directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the third directional antenna being located at back on to the first directional antenna of the base station and facing the second directional antenna of the high-speed moving object;

5 and a fourth directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the fourth directional antenna being located at back on to the second directional antenna of the base station and facing the first directional antenna of the high-speed moving object, the first communication unit of the first

10 base station and the second communication unit of the second base station are connected to the first directional antenna and the third directional antenna of each of the base station, and operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing at predetermined time intervals via the first directional antenna of the

15 base station over radio waves of the first frequency and via the third directional antenna of the base station over radio waves of the second frequency, and to receive data transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of the first frequency and radio waves of the second frequency and transmit the data to

20 the control center via the network, and the first and second base stations may further include a third communication unit connected to the second directional antenna and the fourth directional antenna of the base station and operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing at predetermined time intervals via the second directional antenna of the base station over radio waves of the second frequency and via the fourth directional antenna of the base station over radio waves of the first frequency, in synchronization with one of the first communication unit and the second communication unit in order to transmit the control data

25 alternately with the control data transmitted by one of the first communication unit and the second communication unit.

Thereby even if, for example, a car in the high-speed moving

object is stopped at a station platform, it is possible to communicate with other high-speed moving objects. Moreover, even if, for example, there is a radio wave interference source at the station platform, the directional antenna has directivity by which the
5 directional antenna is not affected by the interference source, so that it is possible to perform reliable communication between the high-speed moving object and the base station.

Still further, the high-speed moving object may further include: a first directional antenna operable to transmit and
10 receive radio waves in a particular direction, the first directional antenna being connected to the first communication unit, being located at one end part in a moving direction of the high-speed moving object, and facing outside; and the second directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular
15 direction, the second directional antenna being connected to the second communication unit, being located at the other end part in the moving direction of the high-speed moving object, and facing outside, and wherein the first and second base stations may include: a first directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio
20 waves in a particular direction, the first directional antenna being located at one end part in a longitudinal direction of a station platform where the first or second base station is equipped and facing a directional antenna of the high-speed moving object; and a second directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio
25 waves in a particular direction, the second directional antenna being located at the other end part in the longitudinal direction of the station platform where the first or second base station is equipped and facing a second directional antenna of the high-speed moving object, and the first communication unit of the first base station is
30 connected to the first directional antenna and the second directional antenna of the base station, and operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing at predetermined time intervals via

the first directional antenna of the base station over radio waves of
the first frequency and via the second directional antenna of the
base station over radio waves of a fourth frequency, and to receive
data transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio
5 waves of the first frequency and radio waves of the fourth frequency
and transmit the data to the control center via the network, the
second communication unit of the second base station is connected
to the first directional antenna and the second directional antenna of
the base station, and operable to transmit control data indicating a
10 transmission timing at predetermined time intervals via the first
directional antenna of the base station over radio waves of the third
frequency and via the second directional antenna of the base station
over radio waves of the second frequency, and to receive data
transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of
15 the third frequency and radio waves of the second frequency and
transmit the data to the control center via the network, the first
communication unit is operable to transmit the data over radio
waves of a corresponding frequency in the first frequency and the
third frequency, when the control data is received over radio waves
20 of one of the first frequency and the third frequency, and the second
communication unit is operable to transmit the data over radio
waves of a corresponding frequency in the fourth frequency and the
second frequency, when the control data is received over radio
waves of one of the fourth frequency and the second frequency.

25 Still further, the high-speed moving object may further
include: a third communication unit operable to transmit the data
over radio waves of the third frequency, when the control data is
received over radio waves of the third frequency; a fourth
communication unit operable to transmit the data over radio waves
30 of the fourth frequency, when the control data is received over radio
waves of the fourth frequency; a first directional antenna connected
to the first communication unit and a third directional antenna

connected to the third communication unit, each of which is operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, located at one end part in the moving direction of the high-speed moving object, and facing outside; and a second
5 directional antenna connected to the second communication unit and a fourth directional antenna connected to the fourth communication unit, each of which is operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, located at the other end part in the moving direction of the high-speed moving object,
10 and facing outside, and the first and second base stations may include: a first directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the first directional antenna being located at one end part in a longitudinal direction of a station platform where the first or second base station is equipped and
15 facing the first directional antenna of the high-speed moving object; and a second directional antenna operable to transmit and receive radio waves in a particular direction, the second directional antenna being located at the other end part in the longitudinal direction of the station platform where the first or second base station is equipped and facing the second directional antenna of the high-speed moving object, wherein the first communication unit of
20 the first base station is connected to the first directional antenna and the second directional antenna, and operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing at predetermined time intervals via the first directional antenna over radio waves of the first frequency and via the second directional antenna over radio waves of the fourth frequency, and to receive data transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of the first frequency and radio waves of the fourth frequency and transmit the
25 data to the control center via the network, and the second communication unit of the second base station is connected to the first directional antenna and the second directional antenna, and
30

operable to transmit control data indicating a transmission timing at predetermined time intervals via the first directional antenna over radio waves of the third frequency and via the second directional antenna over radio waves of the second frequency, and to receive
5 data transmitted from the high-speed moving object over radio waves of the third frequency and radio waves of the second frequency and transmit the data to the control center via the network.

Thereby it is possible to prevent that radio waves from
10 reaching too far due to an installation situation thereby disturbing radio waves of an adjacent base station, as in a case where, for example, each of the adjacent base stations uses radio waves of the same two kinds of frequencies.

Still further, the high-speed moving object may include a plurality of Units which are connected to one another, the Unit having the first directional antenna, the second directional antenna, the third directional antenna, the fourth directional antenna, the first communication unit, the second communication unit, the third communication unit, and the fourth communication unit, the
15 directional antenna located at an end part where one of the Unit is connected to another Unit is used for communication between the Units, and the directional antennae located at both end parts of a whole structure in which the plurality of the Units are connected to one another are used for communication with the first base station
20 and the second base station.
25

Thereby, in a case where the high-speed moving object includes a plurality of Units, radio waves of frequency and a communication unit, which are not used for communication between the high-speed moving object and the base station, are used
30 between the Units, so that transmission between the units can be performed without installing an additional transmission device such as a cable.

Note that the present invention can be realized not only as the above-described radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object but also as a radio transmission method for the high-speed moving object which uses as steps the characteristic
5 means included in the above-described radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object, or as a program which causes a computer to execute these steps. Note also that it is apparent that such a program can be distributed via a recording medium such as a CD-ROM or a transmission medium such as the Internet.

10 As apparent from the above description, according to the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object of the present invention, image data can be transmitted without processing for switching base stations to communicate with the high-speed moving object, so that high-speed handover at data
15 transmission from the high-speed moving object can be realized and the data transmission can be performed properly.

20 Note also that each base station communicates with the high-speed moving object via the directional antenna over radio waves of the first frequency f_1 and radio waves of the second frequency f_2 , so that a reachable distance of the radio waves becomes longer in comparison with a reachable distance by a non-directional antenna, thereby reducing the number of antennae to be installed, which makes it possible to perform communication by installing base stations only at railroad or subway stations, for
25 example. Moreover, the reduction of the number of antennae can restrain influence from others.

Brief Description of Drawings

FIGS. 1A and 1B are schematic diagrams showing a system
30 structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of

each element of the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram showing inside of a car in the
5 high-speed moving object according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a schematic block diagram showing concept of an access control method according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

10 FIG. 5 is a schematic block diagram showing concept of an error correcting system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

15 FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing an operation performed by the high-speed moving object according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a flowchart showing an operation performed by a control center according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

20 FIGS. 8A and 8B are schematic diagrams showing a system structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the second embodiment of the present invention, and more specifically schematic diagrams showing a whole structure (FIG. 8A) and a car structure in the high-speed moving object (FIG. 8B).

25 FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of each element of the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

30 FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram showing a system structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 11A and 11B are schematic diagrams showing a system

structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention, and more specifically schematic diagrams showing a whole structure (FIG. 11A) and a car structure in the high-speed moving object (FIG. 5 11B).

FIG. 12 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of each element of the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention.

10 FIGS. 13A and 13B are schematic diagrams showing a system structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention, and more specifically schematic diagrams showing a whole structure (FIG. 13A) and a car structure in the high-speed moving object (FIG. 15 13B).

FIG. 14 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of each element of the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention.

20 FIG. 15 is an explanatory diagram showing a corresponding relationship among a position of the high-speed moving object, a frequency of radio waves used in communication between the high-speed moving object and the base station, and a frequency of radio waves used in communication between Units (on an inbound 25 line and an outbound line), regarding the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 16 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of a high-speed moving object in a radio transmission system for the 30 high-speed moving object according to the sixth embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 17 is a schematic diagram showing one example of a

characteristic table which a control unit has.

FIG. 18 is a flowchart showing an operation when the high-speed moving object determines output strength of radio waves, according to the sixth embodiment of the present invention.

5 FIG. 19 is a block diagram showing another internal structure of the high-speed moving object according to the sixth embodiment of the present invention.

10 FIG. 20 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of a control center in a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the seventh embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 21 is a flowchart showing an operation when a control center determines a base station to transmit control data, according to the seventh embodiment of the present invention.

15 FIG. 22 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of a control center in a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the eighth embodiment of the present invention.

20 **Detailed Description of the Invention**

The following describes each embodiment according to the present invention with reference to the drawings.

(First Embodiment)

FIGS. 1A and 1B are schematic diagrams showing a system structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the first embodiment of the present invention. This radio transmission system 1 for a high-speed moving object is a system for transmitting image data, in which the inside of a car of a high-speed moving object 100 is captured, to a control center 300 managing condition of the high-speed moving object 100, and the radio transmission system 1 includes: the high-speed moving object 100 which runs along a track; the control center 300 which manages

the condition of the high-speed moving object; and a base station (BS) 200 which is installed at a station of railroad, subway, or the like. Here, the control center 300 and the base station 200 are connected to each other via a network 400.

5 FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of each element of the above radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object.

10 The high-speed moving object 100 is, for example, a train of railroad, subway, or the like running along a track, having one or more cars, and the high-speed moving object 100 includes a first communication unit 101, a second communication unit 102, a plurality of image capturing units 103a, 103b, 103c, ..., and antennae 104 and 105.

15 The image capturing unit 103 is, for example, a television camera and captures an image of inside of the car in the high-speed moving object 100 as shown in FIG. 3. When the first communication unit 101 receives control data from the base station 200 over radio waves of the first frequency f_1 , the first communication unit 101 transmits image data (picture) captured by 20 the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the first frequency f_1 . When the second communication unit 102 receives control data from the base station 200 over radio waves of the second frequency f_2 , the second communication unit 102 transmits image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the 25 second frequency f_2 .

The base station 200 is an apparatus which communicates with the high-speed moving object 100 and the control center 300, and includes a communication unit 201 and an antenna 202.

30 The communication unit 201 transmits control data indicating a timing of transmission over radio waves of a predetermined frequency at predetermined time intervals. In addition, the communication unit 201 receives image data transmitted from the

high-speed moving object 100 over radio waves of the predetermined frequency and transmits the image data to the control center 300 via the network 400. Note that BS1 and BS2 in
5 data to be transmitted in FIG. 1A are packet headers added by the base stations.

The base stations 200a, 200b, 200c, ... perform communication over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2 alternately. In other words, in
10 the example shown in FIG. 1A, the base stations 200a, 200c, and 200e perform communication over radio waves of the first frequency f1, while the base stations 200b, 200d, and 200f perform communication over radio waves of the second frequency f2.

As an access control system used in the communication between the high-speed moving object 100 and the base station 200,
15 a time division multiplexing system is used. By this time division multiplexing system, as shown in FIG. 4 for example, communication is performed by dividing each frame into time slots S(1) to S(4), using control data (download) transmitted from the communication unit 201 of the base station 200 as a reference timing.
20 When the control data is received from the communication unit 201, the first communication unit 101 and the second communication unit 102 in the high-speed moving object 100 transmit image data using respective time slots designated by the control data. Here, in order to prevent transmission overlap, a
25 guard time (GT) which is a null-signal sequence is set. In addition, the first communication unit 101 and the second communication unit 102 transmit respective time information (time stamp (TS)) indicating a time when the image capturing unit 103 captures the image data, together with the image data.

Moreover, as a processing system performed when an error occurs in the communication between the high-speed moving object 100 and the base station 200, an error correcting system is used.
30

FIG. 5 is a schematic block diagram showing a concept of the error correcting system. By this error correcting system, for example, data shown in FIG. 5 (b) is generated by adding error-correction data to an initial data shown in FIG. 5 (a), interleaving is performed
5 to arrange and intersperse an order of continuous data in the generated data in order to generate data shown in FIG. 5 (c), and after that the data is transmitted. De-interleaving is performed for the transmitted data shown in FIG. 5 (d) in order to generate data shown in FIG. 5 (e). Error correction is performed based on
10 error-correction data added to the data in order to generate data shown in FIG. 5 (f). By using such an error correcting system, even if, for example, an error occurs and "B2" and "A3" are lost as shown in FIG. 5 (d), an initial data can be generated.

More specifically, for example, image data of 180 bytes is
15 added with error-correction data of 24 bytes to generate data of 204 bytes. Next, for the data of 204 bytes, an order of the continuous data is interleaved per unit byte, so that data of 204 bytes can be newly generated and transmitted.

The control center 300 is a center which manages a condition
20 of the high-speed moving object 100, and includes a communication unit 301, a selection unit 302, a display unit 303, and a monitor 304 such as a liquid crystal display device or a CRT.

The communication unit 301 communicates with the base station 200 via the network 400.

25 The display part 303 displays image data transmitted from each base station 200 via the network, onto the monitor 304 for every image capturing unit 103.

When there are, among the image data transmitted from the base stations 200, a plurality of image data that are captured at the
30 same time by the same image capturing unit 103, the selection unit 302 selects one image data from the plurality of image data.

Next, an operation performed by the high-speed moving

object 100 in the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object having the above-described structure is described. FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing an operation performed by the high-speed moving object 100.

5 The first communication unit 101 and the second communication unit 102 receive radio waves of a first frequency f1 and radio waves of a second frequency f2, respectively (Step S101). The first communication unit 101 determines whether or not control data is received from the base station 200 over radio waves of the
10 first frequency f1 (Step S102). Here, if control data is received from the base station 200 (YES at Step S102), then the first communication unit 101 transmits image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the first frequency f1 (Step S103). On the other hand, if control data is not received from
15 the base station 200 (NO at Step S102), then the first communication unit 101 does not transmit the image data over radio waves of the first frequency f1.

At the same time, the second communication unit 102 determines whether or not control data is received from the base station 200 over radio waves of the second frequency f2 (Step S104). Here, if control data is received from the base station 200 (YES at Step S104), then the second communication unit 102 transmits image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the second frequency f2 (Step S105). On the other hand,
20 if control data is not received from the base station 200 (NO at Step S104), then the second communication unit 102 does not transmit the image data over radio waves of the second frequency f2.
25

This means that the high-speed moving object 100 is in a status where the high-speed moving object 100 can receive radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2 at any time, and when control data is received from the base station 200 over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1

and radio waves of the second frequency f2, the high-speed moving object 100 transmits the same image data over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2.

Moreover, an area where the radio waves of the first frequency f1 can be transmitted and received and an area where the radio waves of the second frequency f2 can be transmitted and received are partly overlapped with each other, due to radio waves transmitted and received by base stations 200 adjacent to each other, as shown in FIG. 1A. Therefore, the high-speed moving object 100 performs, depending on a position of the high-speed moving object 100, one of: transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the first frequency f1; transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the second frequency f2; and transmitting and receiving over both of the radio waves of the first frequency f1 and the radio waves of the second frequency f2. For example, in areas 10a, 10e, and 10i shown in FIG. 1A, the high-speed moving object 100 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the first frequency f1. In areas 10c, 10g, and 10k, the high-speed moving object 100 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the second frequency f2. In areas 10b, 10d, 10f, 10h, and 10j, the high-speed moving object 100 performs transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2.

Next, an operation performed by the control center 300 is described. FIG. 7 is a flowchart showing an operation performed by the control center 300.

The communication unit 301 receives image data transmitted from each base station 200 via the network 400 (Step S201). The selection unit 302 determines whether or not there are, among the image data received by the communication unit 301, a plurality of image data that are captured at the same time by the same image capturing unit 103 (Step S202). Here, the selection unit 302

determines, based on each time stamp added to each image data, whether or not those image data are captured at the same time. In addition, the selection unit 302 determines whether or not those data are captured by the same image capturing unit 103, based on 5 each time stamp and each camera ID for identifying a car and an image capturing unit, for example, which are added to each image data.

As a result of the determination, if there are two or more image data that are captured at the same time and by the same 10 image capturing unit 103, then the selection unit 302 selects, from the two image data, image data having better image quality (Step S203). The display part 303 displays onto the monitor 304 image data selected by the selection unit 302 (Step S204). On the other hand, if there are no two image data that are captured at the same 15 time and by the same image capturing unit 103, in other words, if there is only one image data that is captured at the same time and by the same image capturing unit 103 (NO at Step S202), then the display unit 303 displays onto the monitor 304 the image data (Step S204).

As described above, the high-speed moving object 100 is in a status where the high-speed moving object 100 can receive radio waves of the first frequency f_1 and radio waves of the second frequency f_2 at any time, and when control data is received from the base station 200 over the radio waves of the first frequency f_1 or the 25 radio waves of the second frequency f_2 , the high-speed moving object 100 transmits the same image data over the radio waves of the first frequency f_1 or the radio waves of the second frequency f_2 , respectively. This means that when the high-speed moving object 100 receives the control data from the base station 200 over both of the radio waves of the first frequency f_1 and the radio waves of the second frequency f_2 , the high-speed moving object 100 transmits 30 the same image data over both of the radio waves of the first

frequency f1 and the radio waves of the second frequency f2, and the control center 300 selects, from the two image data, image data having better image quality, so that the image data can be transmitted without processing for switching the base stations 200
5 to communicate with the high-speed moving object 100. Thereby a high-speed handover at data transmission from the high-speed moving object can be realized and the data transmission can be performed properly.

Note that the first embodiment may have a structure in which
10 the control center 300 includes an instruction unit which designates the image capturing unit 103 using a camera ID and instructs the high-speed moving object 100 to capture image by the image capturing unit 103, adds the instructions including the camera ID to the control data which is to be transmitted to the base station 200,
15 and transmits the control data to the high-speed moving object 100. In this case, the first communication unit 101 and the second communication unit 102 in the high-speed moving object 100 decide image data to be transmitted based on the camera ID added to the control data, and transmit the image data.

20 Note also that in the first embodiment, the selection unit 302 in the control center 300 determines whether or not image data are captured at the same time, based on the time stamps added to the image data, but the present invention is not limited to the above. For example, the selection unit 302 may determine whether or not
25 image data are captured at the same time, based on each sequence number which has been added to each image data by the image capturing units 103. In this case, it is possible to easily perform the determination as to whether or not the image data are captured at the same time. As the sequence number, for example, a value that
30 has a width 16 bits and is increased by 1 sequentially per data packet from a random initial value can be used.

(Second Embodiment)

The second embodiment describes a case where, in the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object described in the first embodiment, both of the high-speed moving object 100 and the base station 200 have respective directional antennae.

FIGS. 8A and 8B are schematic diagrams showing a system structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the second embodiment, and FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of each element in this radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object. In this radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object, as shown in FIG. 9, a high-speed moving object 110 includes directional antennae 114 and 115 instead of the antennae 104 and 105 in the first embodiment, and a base station 210 includes a communication unit 211 and directional antennae 212 and 213 instead of the communication unit 201 and the antenna 202 in the first embodiment. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference numerals in the first embodiment and the details of those elements are not described again below. Note also that the control center 300 is not shown in FIGS. 8A, 8B, nor 9.

The directional antennae 114 and 115 in the high-speed moving object 110 are antennae for transmitting and receiving radio waves in a particular direction, and as shown in FIG. 8B, the directional antenna 114 is installed at an end part in a moving direction of the high-speed moving object 110, facing the outside (for example, facing forward if the directional antennae 114 is installed to a running direction, while facing backward if the directional antennae 114 is installed to an opposite direction of the running) and the directional antenna 115 is installed at the other end part in the moving direction of the high-speed moving object 110 and at an opposite side of the directional antenna 114, facing the outside (facing an opposite side of the directional antenna 114).

When the first communication unit 101 receives control data

from the base station 210 via the directional antenna 114 over radio waves of the first frequency f1, the first communication unit 101 transmits image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the first frequency f1. When the second 5 communication unit 102 receives control data from the base station 210 via the directional antenna 115 over radio waves of the second frequency f2, the second communication unit 102 transmits image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the second frequency f2.

10 The directional antennae 212 and 213 in the base station 210 are antennae for transmitting and receiving radio waves in a particular direction, and the directional antenna 212 is installed at an end part in a longitudinal direction of a station platform 500 where the base station 210 is equipped, facing the directional 15 antenna 114 of the high-speed moving object 110, as shown in FIG. 8A. On the other hand, the directional antenna 213 is installed at the other end part in the longitudinal direction of the station platform 500 and at an opposite side of the directional antenna 212, facing the directional antenna 115 of the high-speed moving object 20 110.

The communication unit 211 transmits control data indicating a timing of transmission at predetermined time intervals via the directional antenna 212 over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and via the directional antenna 213 over radio waves of the second frequency f2. In addition, the communication unit 211 receives, 25 via the directional antenna 212, image data transmitted from the high-speed moving object 100 over radio waves of the first frequency f1, and receives, via the directional antenna 213, image data transmitted from the high-speed moving object 100 over radio 30 waves of the second frequency f2, and then transmits respective image data to the control center 300 via the network 400.

Therefore, each of the base stations 210a, 210b, 210c, ...

performs communication over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2.

In the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object having the above-described structure, an area where the 5 radio waves of the first frequency f1 can be transmitted and received and an area where the radio waves of the second frequency f2 can be transmitted and received are partly overlapped with each other, around at a middle point between the railroad or subway station equipped with the base station 210 and another railroad or subway 10 station adjacent to the railroad or subway station, as shown in FIG. 8A. Therefore, the high-speed moving object 110 performs, depending on a position of the high-speed moving object 110, one of: transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the first frequency f1; transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of 15 the second frequency f2; and transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio wave of the second frequency f2. For example, in areas 20a, 20e, and 20i shown in FIG. 8A, the high-speed moving object 110 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the second frequency f2. In 20 areas 20c, 20g, and 20k, the high-speed moving object 110 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the first frequency f1. In areas 20b, 20d, 20f, 20h, and 20j, the high-speed moving object 110 performs transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of 25 the second frequency f2.

As described above, both of the high-speed moving object 110 and the base station 210 include respective directional antennae, and each of the base stations 210a, 210b, 210c, ... performs communication over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2, so that a reachable distance of the radio waves become longer in comparison with a reachable distance by a non-directional antenna, thereby

reducing the number of antennae to be installed, which makes it possible to perform communication by installing base stations only at railroad or subway stations. Moreover, the reduction of the number of antennae can restrain influence from others.

5 Furthermore, when control data is received from the base station 210 over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2, the high-speed moving object 110 transmits the same image data over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2,
10 and the control center selects, from the two image data, image data having better image quality, so that the image data can be transmitted without processing for switching the base stations 200 to communicate with the high-speed moving object 100, in the same manner as described in the first embodiment. Thereby high-speed
15 handover at data transmission from the high-speed moving object can be realized and the data transmission can be properly performed.

(Third Embodiment)

20 The third embodiment describes a case where, in the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object described in the second embodiment, the base station 210 further has additional directional antennae.

25 FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram showing a system structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the third embodiment. In this radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object, as shown in FIG. 10, a base station 220 includes a first communication unit 221, a second communication unit 222, and directional antennae 223 to 226, instead of the communication unit 211 and the antennae 212 and 30 213 in the second embodiment. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference numerals in the second embodiment and the details of those elements are not described

again below.

The directional antennae 223 to 226 in the base station 220 are antennae for transmitting and receiving radio waves in a particular direction, and the directional antenna 223 is installed, in
5 the same manner of the directional antenna 212, at an end part in a longitudinal direction of the station platform 500 where the base station 220 is equipped, facing the directional antenna 114 in the high-speed moving object 110, as shown in FIG. 10. On the other hand, the directional antenna 224 is installed, as shown in FIG. 10,
10 at back on to the directional antenna 223, facing an opposite side of the directional antenna 223 (facing the directional antenna 115 of the high-speed moving object 110).

Further, the directional antenna 226 is installed at the other end part in the longitudinal direction of the station platform 500 and
15 at an opposite side of the directional antenna 223, facing the directional antenna 115 of the high-speed moving object 110. Still further, the directional antenna 225 is installed, as shown in FIG. 10, at back on to the directional antenna 226, facing an opposite side of the directional antenna 226 (facing the directional antenna 114 of
20 the high-speed moving object 110).

The first communication unit 221 transmits control data indicating a timing of transmission at predetermined time intervals via the directional antenna 223 over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and via the directional antenna 224 over radio waves of
25 the second frequency f2. In addition, the first communication unit 221 receives, via the directional antenna 223, image data transmitted from the high-speed moving object 110 over radio waves of the first frequency f1, and receives, via the directional antenna 224, image data transmitted from the high-speed moving object 110 over radio waves of the second frequency f2, and then
30 transmits respective image data to the control center 300 via the network 400.

On the other hand, the second communication unit 222 transmits control data indicating a timing of transmission at predetermined time intervals via the directional antenna 225 over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and via the directional antenna 226 over radio wave of the second frequency f2. In addition, the second communication unit 222 receives, via the directional antenna 225, image data transmitted from the high-speed moving object 110 over radio waves of the first frequency f1, and receives, via the directional antenna 226, image data transmitted from the high-speed moving object 110 over radio waves of the second frequency f2, and then transmits respective image data to the control center 300 via the network 400.

Moreover, the first communication unit 221 and the second communication unit 222 are in synchronization with each other to output alternately control data to be transmitted over radio waves of the first frequency f1. In the same manner, the first communication unit 221 and the second communication unit 222 are in synchronization with each other to output alternately control data to be transmitted over radio waves of the second frequency f2.

In the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object having the above-described structure, regarding radio waves of the first frequency f1, when the high-speed moving object is at the railroad or subway station, communication is performed via the directional antenna 223, and when the high-speed moving object is out of the railroad or subway station, communication is performed via the directional antenna 225, as shown in FIG. 10. On the other hand, regarding radio waves of the second frequency f2, when the high-speed moving object is at the railroad or subway station, communication is performed via the directional antenna 226, and when the high-speed moving object is out of the railroad or subway station, communication is performed via the directional antenna 224.

As described above, the base station 220 includes two directional antennae corresponding to radio waves of the first frequency f_1 and two directional antennae corresponding to radio waves of the second frequency f_2 , so that it is possible to prevent a
5 situation where the base station 220 cannot communicate with the running high-speed moving object because another high-speed moving object at the railroad or subway station becomes an obstacle for the communication, for example. Furthermore, even if, for example, there is a radio wave interference source R at the station
10 platform 500 as shown in FIG. 10, the directional antenna 224 has directivity by which the directional antenna 224 is not affected by the radio wave interference source R, so that it is possible to perform reliable communication between the high-speed moving object 110 and the base station 220.

15 (Fourth Embodiment)

The fourth embodiment describes a case where, in the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object described in the second embodiment, the high-speed moving object 110 further has additional directional antennae and uses radio waves of four
20 kinds of frequencies.

FIGS. 11A and 11B are schematic diagrams showing a system structure of the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 12 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of each element of this radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object. In this radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object, as shown in FIG. 12, a high-speed moving object 120 includes a third communication unit 121, a fourth communication unit 122, and directional antennae 123 and 124, in
25 addition to the structure of the second embodiment. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference numerals in the second embodiment and the details of those elements are not
30

described again below.

The directional antennae 123 and 124 in the high-speed moving object 120 are antennae for transmitting and receiving radio waves in each particular direction in the same manner as the 5 directional antennae 114 and 115, and as shown in FIG. 11B, the directional antenna 123 is installed next to the directional antenna 114 at an end part in a moving direction of the high-speed moving object 120, facing the outside. On the other hand, the directional antenna 124 is installed next to the directional antenna 115 at the 10 other end part in the moving direction of the high-speed moving object 120 and at an opposite side of the directional antenna 123, facing the outside.

When the third communication unit 121 in the high-speed moving object 120 receives control data from the base station 230 via the directional antenna 123 over radio waves of the third frequency f3, the third communication unit 121 transmits image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the third frequency f3. When the fourth communication unit 122 receives control data from the base station 230 via the directional 20 antenna 124 over radio waves of the fourth frequency f4, the fourth communication unit 122 transmits image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 over radio waves of the fourth frequency f4.

As shown in FIG. 11A, each of the base stations 230a, 230c, ... 25 performs communication via the directional antennae 232a, 232c, ... over radio wave of the first frequency f1 and via the directional antennae 233a, 233c, ... over radio waves of the fourth frequency f4. Further, each of the base stations 230b, 230d, ... performs communication via the directional antennae 232b, 232d, ... over 30 radio waves of the third frequency f3 and via the directional antennae 233b, 233d, ... over radio waves of the second frequency f2.

In the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object having the above-described structure, areas where the radio waves of the frequencies f1 to f4 can be transmitted and received are partly overlapped with one another, at the railroad or subway station equipped with the base station 230 and around at a middle point between the railroad or subway stations adjacent to each other, as shown in FIG. 11A. Therefore, the high-speed moving object 120 performs, depending on a position of the high-speed moving object 110, one of: transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the first frequency f1; transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the second frequency f2; transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the third frequency f3; transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the fourth frequency f4; transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2; transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the second frequency f2 and radio waves of the third frequency f3; transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the third frequency f3 and radio waves of the fourth frequency f4; and transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the fourth frequency f4.

For example, in areas 30a and 30i shown in FIG. 11A, the high-speed moving object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the fourth frequency f4. In areas 30c and 30k, the high-speed moving object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the first frequency f1. In an area 30e, the high-speed moving object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the second frequency f2 and in an area 30g, the high-speed moving object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over only radio waves of the third frequency f3. In areas 30b and 30j, the high-speed moving object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the first

frequency f1 and radio waves of the fourth frequency f4. In an area 30d, the high-speed moving object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2, in a 30f, the high-speed moving 5 object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the second frequency f2 and radio waves of the third frequency f3, and in 30h, the high-speed moving object 120 performs transmitting and receiving over both of radio waves of the third frequency f3 and radio waves of the fourth frequency f4.

10 As described above, the radio waves of the four kinds of frequencies are utilized so that the base stations 230 adjacent to each other use frequencies different from each other, which makes it possible, as in a case where, for example, each of the adjacent base stations 230 uses the same two kinds of frequencies, to prevent that 15 radio waves reach too far due to an installation situation thereby disturbing radio waves of an adjacent base station.

Note that in the fourth embodiment, the high-speed moving object 120 has a structure having the directional antennae 123 and the third communication unit 121 corresponding to radio waves of 20 the third frequency f3, and the directional antenna 124 and the fourth communication unit 122 corresponding to radio waves of the frequency f4, but the present invention is not limited to the above. For example, the first communication unit 101 may have a structure, in which, when control data is received from the base station 210 via 25 the directional antenna 114 over radio waves of the first frequency f1 or radio waves of the third frequency f3, the frequencies are switched depending on a reception status of radio waves and image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 is transmitted over radio waves of the first frequency f1 or radio waves of the third 30 frequency f3, respectively. Furthermore, the second communication unit 102 may have a structure, in which, when control data is received from the base station 210 via the directional

antenna 115 over radio waves of the second frequency f2 or radio waves of the fourth frequency f4, the frequencies are switched depending on a reception status of radio waves and image data captured by the image capturing unit 103 is transmitted over radio 5 waves of the second frequency f2 or radio waves of the fourth frequency f4, respectively.

In this case, as shown in FIG. 11A for example, when the high-speed moving object 120 moves from an area 30d where radio waves of the first frequency f1 can be received to an area 30e where 10 radio waves of the first frequency f1 cannot be received, the first communication unit 101 can switch, via the directional antenna 114, the frequencies to be received from radio waves of the first frequency f1 to the radio waves of the third frequency f3. At this moment, the communication between the high-speed moving object 15 120 and the base station 230 is being performed over radio waves of the second frequency f2 and is not affected by the frequency switching from the radio waves of the first frequency f1 to the radio waves of the third frequency f3.

(Fifth Embodiment)

The fifth embodiment describes a case where, in the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object described in the fourth embodiment, the structure of the high-speed moving object 120 is considered as one Unit and a plurality of such a Unit are connected to one another.

FIGS. 13A and 13B are schematic diagrams showing a system structure of a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 14 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of the high-speed moving object in this radio transmission system. In 25 this radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object, the structure of the high-speed moving object 120 in the fourth embodiment is considered as one Unit and two of such a Unit are 30

connected to each other. For example, as shown in FIG. 13B, if one Unit includes two cars and two of such a Unit are connected to each other, the high-speed moving object 130 eventually has four cars. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference numerals in the fourth embodiment and the details of those elements are not described again below.

In the same manner as the high-speed moving object 120 of the fourth embodiment, a Unit 130a in the high-speed moving object 130 has, as shown in FIG. 14, a first communication unit 101a, a second communication unit 102a, a third communication unit 121a, a fourth communication unit 122a, directional antennae 114a, 115a, 123a, and 124a, and a switching unit 131a. In the same manner, a Unit 130b has a first communication unit 101b, a second communication unit 102b, a third communication unit 121b, a fourth communication unit 122b, directional antennae 114b, 115b, 123b, and 124b, and a switching unit 131b.

Here, the directional antennae 114a and 123a in the Unit 130a and the directional antennae 115b and 124b in the Unit 130b, which are installed at both end parts of a whole structure in which two Units are connected, are used for the communication between the high-speed moving object 130 and the base station 230 and operate in the same manner as described in the fourth embodiment.

On the other hand, the directional antennae 115a and 124a in the Unit 130a and the directional antennae 114b and 123b in the Unit 130b, which are installed at other end parts where the Unit 130a and the Unit 130b are connected to each other, are used for communication between the Units 130a and 130b. Here, it is assumed in the fifth embodiment that, as frequency of radio waves to be used for the communication between the Units, the second frequency f2 and the fourth frequency f4 have been previously assigned to be used for an inbound line (right direction in FIG. 13A) and the first frequency f1 and the third frequency f3 are assigned to

be used for an outbound line (left direction in FIG. 13A).

In this case, in the Unit 130a of the high-speed moving object 130 (inbound line), in the same manner as described in the fourth embodiment, the second communication unit 102a transmits radio waves of the second frequency f2 using the directional antenna 115a, and the fourth communication unit 122a transmits radio waves of the fourth frequency f4 using the directional antenna 124a. On the other hand, in the Unit 130b, the first communication unit 101b transmits radio waves of the second frequency f2 using the directional antenna 114b, and the third communication unit 121b transmits radio waves of the fourth frequency f4 using the directional antenna 123b. Note that the second communication unit 102a or the fourth communication unit 122a in the Unit 130a and the first communication unit 101b or the third communication unit 121b in the Unit 130b, which perform the communication between the Units, attenuate transmission output to transmit the radio waves.

The switching units 131a and 131b select, based on a frequency of the radio waves used for the communication with the base station, a frequency from the second frequency f2 and the fourth frequency f4 which have been assigned as the frequencies of the radio waves to be used for the communication between the Units. Furthermore, the switching unit 131a selects one of the second communication unit 102a and the fourth communication unit 122a corresponding to the selected frequency, and instructs the selected communication unit to perform communication between the Units. On the other hand, the switching unit 131b selects one of the first communication unit 101b and the third communication unit 121b corresponding to the selected frequency, and instructs the selected communication unit to perform communication between the Units.

Still further, the switching units 131a and 131b further select, depending on a change of the frequency used for the communication

with the base station, frequency of radio waves to be used for the communication between the Units, and instructs a communication unit corresponding to the selected frequency to perform communication between the Units.

5 FIG. 15 is an explanatory diagram showing a corresponding relationship among a position of the high-speed moving object 130 (a position in FIG. 11A), a frequency of radio waves used in the communication between the high-speed moving object 130 and the base station 230, and frequencies of radio waves used for the
10 communication between the Units (on an inbound line and an outbound line). In the case for the inbound line, when the high-speed moving object 130 moved from the area 30b to the area 30c as shown in FIG. 15, the high-speed moving object 130 changes a frequency of the radio waves used for the communication between
15 the Units from the second frequency f2 to the fourth frequency f4. In addition, when the high-speed moving object 130 moved from the area 30f to the area 30g, the high-speed moving object 130 changes the frequency of the radio waves used for the communication between the Units from the fourth frequency f4 to the second
20 frequency f2.

On the other hand, in the case for the outbound line, when the high-speed moving object 130 moved from the area 30j to the area 30h as shown in FIG. 15, the high-speed moving object 130 changes a frequency of the radio waves used for the communication between
25 the Units from the third frequency f3 to the first frequency f1. In addition, when the high-speed moving object 130 moved from the area 30f to the area 30e, the high-speed moving object 130 changes the frequency of the radio waves used for the communication between the Units from the first frequency f1 to the third frequency
30 f3.

As described above, when the high-speed moving object 130 has a plurality of the Units, a frequency of radio waves and a

communication unit, which are not used for the communication between the high-speed moving object 130 and the base station 230, are used for the communication between the Units, so that transmission between the units can be performed without installing
5 an additional transmission device such as a cable. Furthermore, in the inbound line and the outbound line, a frequency of radio waves usable for the communication between the Units has been previously designated, so that, even if the high-speed moving objects 130 stop side by side on the inbound line and the outbound
10 line for example, it is possible to prevent the frequencies of radio waves used for the respective communication between the Units from being overlapped with each other.

(Sixth Embodiment)

In the meantime, a reception status of the base station
15 regarding radio waves transmitted from the high-speed moving object varies depending on conditions of a distance from the high-speed moving object, and for a subway, of existence of a curve in a subway and of a tunnel structure such as a wall surface structure, and the like. For example, when the high-speed moving
20 object uses too strong radio waves for the base station, this causes a possibility of disturbing a base station next to the base station. On the other hand, for example, when the base station cannot receive radio waves from the high-speed moving object, communication is impaired.

Therefore, the sixth embodiment describes a case where, in the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object described in the second embodiment, characteristics of radio waves transmitted from the high-speed moving object are changed depending on positions of the high-speed moving object.
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FIG. 16 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of a high-speed moving object in a radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object according to the sixth embodiment of the
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present invention. In this radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object, the high-speed moving object 140 has, as shown in FIG. 16, a position detection unit 141, a control unit 142, a first variable attenuation unit 143, and a second variable 5 attenuation unit 144, in addition to the structure of the second embodiment. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference numerals in the second embodiment and the details of those elements are not described again below. Note also that a structure of the system and structures of a base station and a 10 control center in the sixth embodiment are the same as described in the second embodiment.

The position detection unit 141 detects a position at which the high-speed moving object 140 is currently running. A method of detecting this running position may include, for example, counting a 15 distance using the number of rotations of a wheel (the counting is re-set at a railroad or subway station), and calculating a distance by integrating a speed. Note that the method of detecting this running position is not limited to these methods but may be other methods except these methods.

The control unit 142 has a characteristic table indicating a 20 radio wave strength at a running position as shown in FIG. 17 for example, and the control unit 142 determines, based on a distance from a railroad or subway station (base station) detected by the position detection unit 141, each output strength of radio waves of 25 the first frequency f_1 to be transmitted by the first communication unit 101 and radio waves of the second frequency f_2 to be transmitted by the second communication unit 102. In addition, the control unit 142 instructs the first variable attenuation unit 143 and the second variable attenuation unit 144 to adjust each output 30 strength to have the determined output strength. Note that the characteristic table has previously been set depending on conditions, in a case of a subway for example, of a curve in a subway, a tunnel

structure such as a wall surface structure, and the like. Note also that the characteristic table shown in FIG. 17 indicates the output strength of radio waves, using ten stages 1 to 10, but the present invention is not limited to the above.

5 The first variable attenuation unit 143 adjusts output strength of radio waves of the first frequency f1 to be transmitted by the first communication unit 101, according to the instructions from the control unit 142. The second variable attenuation unit 144 adjusts output strength of radio waves of the second frequency f2 to
10 be transmitted by the second communication unit 102, according to the instructions from the control unit 142.

15 Next, an operation performed when the high-speed moving object 140 having the above-described structure determines the output strength of radio waves. FIG. 18 is a flowchart showing an operation when the high-speed moving object 140 determines the output strength of radio waves.

20 The position detection unit 141 detects a position at which the high-speed moving object 140 is currently running every predetermined time period and notifies the control unit 142 of the detected position (Step S301). The control unit 142 refers to the characteristic table and, using a distance from a railroad or subway station (base station) notified from the position detection unit 141, determines each output strength of radio waves of the first frequency f1 to be transmitted by the first communication unit 101
25 and radio waves of the second frequency f2 to be transmitted by the second communication unit 102 (Step S302). For example, if a distance from the railroad or subway station notified from the position detection unit 141 is 250 m, then the output strength of radio waves of the first frequency f1 to be transmitted by the first communication unit 101 is determined as "4", and the output strength of radio waves of the second frequency f2 to be transmitted
30 by the second communication unit 102 is determined as "8". Then,

the control unit 142 instructs the first variable attenuation unit 143 and the second variable attenuation unit 144 to adjust each output strength to have the determined output strength (Step S303).

The first variable attenuation unit 143 adjusts, to the output strength determined by the control unit 142, output strength of radio waves of the first frequency f_1 to be transmitted by the first communication unit 101. In the same manner, the second variable attenuation unit 144 adjusts, to the output strength determined by the control unit 142, output strength of radio waves of the second frequency f_2 to be transmitted by the second communication unit 102 (Step S304).

As described above, the output strength of radio waves transmitted from the high-speed moving object 140 is changed depending on a running position, so that a communication status of the base station can be maintained most suitably. Further, this prevents radio waves from the high-speed moving object 140 reaching too far thereby disturbing other base stations.

Note that, in the sixth embodiment, the output strength of radio waves transmitted from the high-speed moving object 140 is changed depending on a running position, but the present invention is not limited to the above. For example, it is possible to change redundancy of error-correction data transmitted from the high-speed moving object 140, depending on the running position.

FIG. 19 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of the high-speed moving object in this case. This high-speed moving object 150 has, as shown in FIG. 19, a position detection unit 141 and a control unit 153 in addition to the structure of the second embodiment. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference numerals and the details of those elements are not described again below.

The control unit 153 has a characteristic table indicating redundancy of error-correction data at a running position, and

determines, based on a distance from the railroad or subway station (base station) detected by the position detection unit 141, each redundancy of error-correction data that is to be added to data to be transmitted by the first communication unit 101 and data to be transmitted by the second communication unit 102. In addition, the control unit 153 instructs the first communication unit 151 and the second communication unit 152 to add error-correction data having the determined redundancy.

The first communication unit 151 and the second communication unit 152 add respective error-correction data having the redundancy instructed by the control unit 153 to generate respective data to be transmitted.

As described above, the redundancy of error-correction data to be transmitted from the high-speed moving object 140 is changed depending on a running position, so that, for example, at a location of weak radio waves, it is possible to strengthen the error correction by increasing the redundancy of error-correction data, which makes it possible to properly transmit data to the base station.

Note that, in the sixth embodiment, the characteristics such as the output strength of radio waves and the redundancy of error-correction data to be transmitted from the high-speed moving object 140 are changed depending on running positions, but the present invention is not limited to the above. For example, in the high-speed moving object 140, strength of radio waves received from the base station is measured every predetermined time period, and depending on the strength of radio waves, the characteristics such as the output strength of radio waves and the redundancy of error-correction data to be transmitted from the high-speed moving object 140 may be changed.

(Seventh Embodiment)

In the meantime, the base station always transmits radio waves even if the high-speed moving object does not exist in an area

corresponding to the base station. In this case, there is a possibility of disturbing other wireless communication devices using the same frequency, thereby reducing use efficiency of the radio waves.

5 Therefore, the seventh embodiment describes a case where, in the radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object described in the second embodiment, output of radio waves transmitted from the base station is performed depending on a position of the high-speed moving object.

10 FIG. 20 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of a control center in a radio transmission system for a high-speed moving object according to the seventh embodiment of the present invention. In this radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object, the control center 310 has, as shown in FIG. 20, a 15 position detection unit 311 and a control unit 312 in addition to the structure of first embodiment. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference numerals in the first embodiment and the details of those elements are not described again below. Note also that a structure of the system and structures of a 20 high-speed moving object and a base station in the seventh embodiment are the same as described in the second embodiment.

The position detection unit 311 detects respective positions at which a plurality of the high-speed moving objects 110 are currently running. A method of detecting the running positions may include, 25 for example, detecting running distances of the high-speed moving objects 110 using radio communication status between the high-speed moving objects 110 and the base stations 210, and detecting running distances of the high-speed moving objects 110 using a train driving system such as an automatic train operating 30 device (ATO device). Note that the method of detecting the running positions is not limited to these methods, but may be other methods except these methods.

The control unit 312 manages an area corresponding to each base station 210, and determines, based on each running position of the plurality of high-speed moving objects 110 detected by the position detection unit 311, whether or not the control unit 312 makes the communication unit 211 of each base station 210 transmit control data over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2. In other words, the control unit 312 determines that radio waves of a frequency corresponding to the base station 210 corresponding to an area where the high-speed moving object 110 exists is to be outputted, and radio waves of a frequency corresponding to the base station 210 corresponding to an area where the high-speed moving object 110 does not exist is not to be outputted.

In addition, the control unit 312 instructs a base station 210, which has been determined to transmit control data, to transmit control data, and instructs a base station 210, which has been determined not to transmit control data, not to transmit control data.

Next, an operation performed when the control center 310 having the above-described structure determines a base station 210 to transmit control data is described. FIG. 21 is a flowchart showing an operation when the control center 310 determines a base station for transmitting control data.

The position detection unit 311 detects respective positions at which a plurality of the high-speed moving objects 110 are currently running, and notifies the control unit 312 of the positions (Step S401). Next, the control unit 312 determines, bases on each running position of the plurality of high-speed moving objects 110 detected by the position detection unit 311, whether or not the control unit 312 makes the communication unit 211 of each base station 210 transmit control data over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2 (Step

S402). For example, in a case where the high-speed moving object 110 exists at a position shown in FIG. 8A, a determination is made that the base station (BS1) 210a should transmit control data over only radio waves of the first frequency f1, the base station (BS2) 5 210b should transmit control data over only radio waves of the second frequency f2, and the base station (BS3) 210c should transmit control data over radio waves of the first frequency f1 and radio waves of the second frequency f2. In this case, the base station (BS1) 210a does not output over radio waves of the second 10 frequency f2, and the base station (BS2) 210b does not output over radio waves of the first frequency f1.

Note that, for example, in a case where the high-speed moving object 110 shown above the base station (BS3) 210c in FIG. 8A does not exist, the base station (BS3) 210c is determined not to 15 transmit control data over radio waves of the first frequency f1 or radio waves of the second frequency f2, so that the base station (BS3) 210c does not output over radio waves of the first frequency f1 or radio waves of the second frequency f2.

Then, the control unit 312 instructs each base station 210 to 20 output, based on the detail determined as above (Step S303).

The communication unit 211 of each base station 210 which has received the output instruction eventually transmits control data over the radio waves as instructed.

As described above, the control regarding whether or not 25 each base station 210 transmits radio waves is performed by the control center 310 depending on a position of the high-speed moving object 110, and if the high-speed moving object does not exist in a corresponding area, the base station does not transmit radio waves, so that it is possible to improve use efficiency of the 30 radio wave without disturbing other wireless communication devices using the same frequency.

(Eighth Embodiment)

In the meantime, when the number of the base stations and the high-speed moving objects is increased, adjustment of parameters of each devices becomes complicated.

Thus, the eighth embodiment describes a case where, in the 5 radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object described in the sixth embodiment, the characteristic table set for the high-speed moving object is set by the control center.

FIG. 22 is a block diagram showing an internal structure of a control center in a radio transmission system for a high-speed 10 moving object according to the eighth embodiment of the present invention. In this radio transmission system for the high-speed moving object, the control center 320 has, as shown in FIG. 22, a setting unit 321 in addition to the structure of the first embodiment. Note that the same elements are designated by the same reference 15 numerals in the first embodiment and the details of those elements are not described again below. Note also that a structure of the system and structures of a high-speed moving object and a base station in the eighth embodiment are the same as described in the sixth embodiment.

20 Based on a status of radio waves corresponding to a running position of the high-speed moving object 110, the setting unit 321 transmits the determined characteristic table to the high-speed moving object 110 and transmits a communication parameter such as output strength of radio waves of a base station to the base 25 station in order to set the table and the parameter.

As described above, the control center 320 sets the characteristic table to the high-speed moving object 110 and sets the communication parameter to the base station, so that it is possible to easily perform initialization or system adjustment in 30 changing the characteristic table and the communication parameter. Furthermore, as described above, the initialization and the system adjustment can be performed by remote control, so that it is not

necessary to go to a location of the high-speed moving object, such as a train depot, to perform the initialization and the system adjustment.

Note that each above embodiment has described that the
5 image data is transmitted from the high-speed moving object via the base station to the control center, but the present invention is not limited to the above. Not only the image data but also any data, such as train accident information or running position information, can be applied to the present invention. Note also that the present
10 invention can be applied when, for example, data such as news or weather forecast can be transmit from the control center via the base station to the high-speed moving object. In this case, the high-speed moving object can select data having better communication status to be used. Note also that the control center
15 may determine a communication status and transmit data over radio waves having better communication status.

Industrial Applicability

As described above, the radio transmission system for the
20 high-speed moving object according to the present invention realizes high-speed handover at data transmission, enables the data transmission to be performed properly, and is useful to transmit data from the high-speed moving object, such as a railroad train or a subway train.

ABSTRACT

A high-speed moving object includes: a first communication unit which transmits image data captured by a plurality of image capturing units over radio waves of a first frequency; and a second communication unit which transmits the image data over radio waves of the second frequency in the similar manner. A base station includes a communication unit which transmits control data indicating a timing of transmission over radio waves of a predetermined frequency, and each of the base stations performs communication over radio waves of the first frequency and radio waves of the second frequency. A control center includes a selection unit which selects one image data from a plurality of image data, when from among the image data transmitted from the base station, the plurality of image data have been captured at the same time by the same one of the image capturing units.